

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph spanning pages 66 and 67 as follows:

The controller may optionally be programmed to implement a modified version of PID control described in International Publication Number WO 99/48608 published Sep. 30, 1999, ~~the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein.~~ In this modified version of PID control, the controller is programmed to compensate for thermal lag between the plates 50A, 50B and a reaction mixture contained in a reaction vessel inserted between the plates. The thermal lag is caused by the need for heat to transfer from the plates 50A, 50B through the flexible walls of the vessel and into the reaction mixture during heating, or by the need for heat to transfer from the reaction mixture through the walls of the vessel to the plates 50A, 50B during cooling. In standard PID control, the power supplied to a heating or cooling element is dependent upon the difference (error) between the actual measured temperature of the plates and the desired set point temperature. The average power being supplied to either the heating or cooling element therefore decreases as the actual temperature of the plates approaches the set point temperature, so that the reaction mixture does not reach the set point temperature as rapidly as possible. The modified version of PID control overcomes this disadvantage of standard PID control during rapid heating or cooling steps.